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# ADDRESS

OF THE

London Corresponding Society K

TO THE OTHER

SOCIETIES OF GREAT BRITAIN,

UNITED FOR OBTAINING A

## REFORM in PARLIAMENT.

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LONDON.

PRINTED FOR JAMES RIDGWAY,

YORK-STREET, ST. JAMES'S-SQUARE.

1793.

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(Price One Penny, or One Hundred Copies for 6s. 6d.)

ADDRESS

London Corresponding Society

SOCIETIES OF GREAT BRITAIN

REFORM IN PARLIAMENT

10/7/91  
109

PRINTED FOR JAMES RICHMOND

ST. JAMES'S SQUARE

1793

Printed by James Richmond, at the Press of the London Corresponding Society, No. 10, St. James's Square.



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**ADDRESS**

**OF THE**

**London Corresponding Society.**

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*Friends and Fellow Countrymen!*

**U**NLESS we are greatly deceived, the Time is approaching when the Object for which we struggle is likely to come within our Reach.—That a Nation like Britain should be free, it is requisite only that Britons should will it to become so; that such should be their Will, the Abuses of

of our *Original Constitution*, and the Alarm of our Aristocratic Enemies, sufficiently witness.—Confident in the Purity of our Motives, and in the Justice of our Cause, let us meet Falsehood with Proofs, and Hypocrisy with Plainness: Let us persevere in declaring our Principles, and Misrepresentation will meet its due Reward—Contempt.

In this View the Artifices of a late ARISTOCRATIC ASSOCIATION, formed on the 20th Instant, call for a few Remarks, on account of the Declaration they have published relative to other Clubs and Societies formed in this Nation. It is true, that this Meeting of *Gentlemen* (for so they style themselves) have mentioned no Names, instanced no Facts, quoted no Authorities; but they take upon themselves to assert, that bodies of their  
Country-

Countrymen have been associated professing Opinions favourable to the RIGHTS of MAN, to LIBERTY, and EQUALITY ; and moreover, that those Opinions are conveyed in the Terms *NO KING! NO PARLIAMENT!*—So much for their Assertions.

If this be intended to include the Societies to which we respectively belong, we here in the most solemn manner deny the latter Part of the Charge ; while in admitting the former, we claim the Privilege, and glory in the Character of Britons. Whoever shall attribute to us (who wish only the Restoration of the lost Liberties of our Country) the expressions of *No KING! No PARLIAMENT!* or any Design of invading the *PROPERTY* of other Men, is guilty of a wilful,  
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an impudent, and a malicious Falshood.

We know and are sensible that the Wages of every Man are his Right ; that *Difference of Strength, of Talents, and of Industry, ot and ought to afford proportional Distinctions of Property, which, when acquired and confirmed by the Laws, is sacred and inviolable.* We defy the most slavish and malevolent Man in the Meeting of the 20th Instant, to bring the remotest Proof to the Contrary. If there be no Proof, we call upon them to justify an insidious Calumny, which seems invented only to terrify Independent Britons from reclaiming the *Rightful Constitution of their Country.*

We admit and we declare, that we are Friends to CIVIL LIBERTY, and therefore



fore to NATURAL EQUALITY, both of which we consider as the RIGHTS of MANKIND.---Could we believe them to be “ *in direct opposition to the Laws of this Land,*” we should blush to find ourselves among the Number of its Inhabitants; but we are persuaded that the Abuses of the Constitution will never pass current for its true Principles, since we are told in its first Charter that all are EQUAL in the *Sight of the Law*, which “ *shall neither be sold nor refused, nor delayed, to any Free Man whatsoever.*” Should it ever happen that “ RIGHT and JUSTICE” are opposed by Expence, by Refusal, or by Delay, THEN IS THIS PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY VIOLATED, AND WE ARE NO LONGER FREEMEN.

Such are our Notions of those Rights, which it is boldly maintained are “ *inconsistent*”

*sistent with the Well-being of Society."* But let us not suffer Men, who avow no Principles of Liberty, whose favourite Cry is **INEQUALITY OF PROPERTY**, to estrange others of our Countrymen from aiding us in serving the Community, and from recovering to the Nation that Share of its Sovereignty, which has unhappily been sacrificed to **CORRUPT COURTIER**s and intriguing **BOUROUGH-MONGERS**.

If our Laws and Constitution be just and wise in their Origin and their Principle, every Deviation from them as first established must be injurious to the People, whose Persons and Property were then secured ; if at the Revolution, this Country was adequately represented, it is now so no longer ; and therefore calls aloud for the *REFORM*.

If

If it be true that the People of Britain are superior to other nations, is it that our Taxes are less burthenfome, or that our Provisions are less expensive? Is it from the various Productions of our Soil that we are rich? Is it owing to the Majority of our Numbers that we are strong? Certainly not! France has the Advantage in all these Respects, and up to this Period she has never been our superior in Wealth, in Power, in Talents, or in Virtues. But let us not deceive ourselves, the difference between us and that Nation, was, formerly, that our Monarchy was limited while their's was absolute; that the Number of our Aristocracy did not equal the Thousandth Part of their's; that we had Trial by Jury while they had none; that our Persons were protected by the Laws, while their Lives were at the Mercy of every titled

Indivi-

Individual We therefore had that to fight for which to them was unknown, since we were MEN while they were SLAVES.

The scene indeed has changed: Like our brave Ancestors of the last Century, they have driven out the Family that would have destroyed them; they have scattered the Mercenaries who invaded their Freedom, "and have broken their " Chains on the Heads of their Oppressors." If, during this conflict with military Assassins and domestic Traitors, Cruelty and Revenge have arisen among a few Inhabitants of the Capital, let us lament these effects of a bloody and tyrannous MANIFESTO; but let us leave to the hypocritical Pretenders to Humanity the Task of blackening the Misfortune,

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and attributing to a whole Nation the Act of an enraged Populace.

As we have never yet been cast so low at the Foot of Despotism, so is it not requisite that we should appeal to the same awful Tribunal with our Brethern on the Continent. May our Enmities be written in Sand, but may our Rights be engraven on Marble ! We desire to overthrow no Property but what has been raised on the RUINS OF OUR LIBERTY ! We look with Reverence on the landed and commercial Interests of our Country ; but we view with Abhorrence that MONOPOLY of BURGAGE TENURES, unwarranted by Law or Reason in this or any other Nation in Europe.

Let us then continue with Patience and  
Firmness

Firmness, in the Path which is begun; let us then wait and watch the ensuing Parliament, from whom we have much to hope and little to fear. The House of Commons may have been the Source of our Calamity, it may prove that of our Deliverance. Should it not, we trust we shall not prove unworthy our Forefathers, **WHOSE EXERTIONS IN THE CAUSE OF MANKIND SO WELL DESERVE OUR IMITATION.**

**M. MARGAROT, *Chairman.***

**T. HARDY, *Secretary.***

**Nov. 29, 1792.**

*December 7, 1792.*

**INCREDIBLE** as it may appear, WM. CARTER, the Bill-Sticker, is now in confinement, under the commitment of Sir Samson Wright, for posting the above Address! Moderation itself, it seems, can no longer procure a hearing for the real Friends of their Country.

—The PLACE and PENSION SOCIETY, of the Crown and Anchor, are not only permitted to monopolize Abuse, but also to enjoy the exclusive Privilege of asserting all manner of Falsehood, without the possibility of contradiction.

The Bill-Sticker, however, will this Day be liberated upon Bail, and a Subscription is opened for the purpose of bringing

ing this important Case before a Jury of Englishmen.

N. B. Subscriptions are received at Mr. MARTIN's, No. 1, Richmond-Building's, Dean-Street.

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